



Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2011

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:11-12

Liturgy Intentions

Mon, Dec 26	8:15 am SPE	Word/Communion Service
Tues, Dec 27	8:15 am SPE	Ralph Eirden
	5:30 pm SPE	Adoration
Wed, Dec 28	8:15 am SPA	Living & Deceased Members of Kollmann, Peschl Families
Thurs, Dec 29	8:15 am SPE	Dick & Dorothy Putz
Fri, Dec 30	8:15 am SPA	Susan Fuchs
New Year's Eve		
Sat, Dec 31	8:15 am SPE	Word/Communion Service
	4:30 pm SPA	Dell Kustermann
New Year's Day		
Sun, Jan 1	7:30 am SPE	For the People
	9:00 am SPA	Margaret Lenarz
	10:30 am SPE	Mary Ann Gerads

St. Peter's and St. Paul's Year End Contributions need to be in the Parish Office by January 3 to be credited to 2011. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

Due to the publisher's deadline, Parish Sacrificial Giving for December 18th will be in next weekend's bulletin.

Parish Office Hours During the Christmas & New Year Season

December 23, 24, 25, 26—Office Closed
 December 27, 28, 29 — 8 AM to 12 PM
 December 30, 31, January 1, 2 — Office Closed

Merry Christmas to ALL!

May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Christmas Season and throughout the year!



From Fr. Alan...

Welcome parishioners, friends and visitors as we gather this weekend to celebrate the wondrous **Christmas Feast of Incarnation**. *“ I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.”* (Luke 2:10 -11) Our God has taken on human flesh, has come among us, to dwell with us, to reconcile us and be our peace. We are called not only to come and bow to the manger in Bethlehem, joining the shepherds and angels, Mary and Joseph, the stable creatures as they behold and adore the Christ Child. We are also to be thankful that Christ continues to be born in our world, in the mangers and stables of our lives, in all those places and situations where hearts that are sometimes fearful or anxious are open to receive the gift of God's love. May we all know God's loving kindness this Christmas!



THANK YOU to all who helped make Advent a special, holy time of preparation and now who are making Christmas such a joyful celebration: all of our liturgical ministers, church decorators, the choirs and instrumentalists, Eucharistic ministers to the homebound, Befrienders, the “Advent project visitors”, our school staffs and children for the beautiful programs, all of our faithful pray-ers, the parish staff, St. Nicholas, the Parish Breakfast Committee, our faith formation volunteers, our councils and committees, military outreach, those who have contributed for flowers and garland, all who have shared Christmas stewardship with our parishes, those who are gifting us with a special Christmas book!.....forgive me for whoever I may be missing on this “thank you list”. May the Christ Child smile upon and give each of you Christmas peace.

From the parish staff and myself: A very merry and blessed Christmas to each and to all. And many thanks for all the Christmas kindness, the cards, gifts and goodies that have been shared with us! Have a special Christmas week.

Week At A Glance

Monday, December 26

8:15 AM Word/Communion at St. Peter's

Tuesday, December 27

8:15 AM Liturgy at St. Peter's

6:30 PM Baptism Prep at St. Peter's

Wednesday, December 28

8:15 AM Liturgy at St. Paul's

Thursday, December 29

8:15 AM Liturgy at St. Peter's

Friday, December 30

8:15 AM Liturgy at St. Paul's

Saturday, December 31—New Year's Eve

8:15 AM Word/Communion at St. Peter's

11:30 AM Saturday Meal at St. Paul's

4:30 PM Liturgy at St. Paul's

Sunday, January 1—New Year's Day

7:30 AM Liturgy at St. Peter's

9:00 AM Liturgy at St. Paul's

No LOWC—resumes January 8

10:30 AM Liturgy at St. Peter's

No Sunday School — resumes January 8

CHURCH OF THE WEEK

St. Paul—December 26 through January 1
St. Peter—March 12 through March 18

Thank you to St. Paul's Parish for your generous gift of \$505.00 and to St. Peter's Parish for your gift of \$1,327 to World Mission Sunday. May God continue to fill you with grace and joy.

Thank you for Making God's Love Visible to St. Paul's parish for your gift of \$499.00 to Catholic Charities.

A New Opportunity

In an effort to expand the knowledge of support services that parish nurses have to offer, KYES Radio Station 1180 Catholic Talk Radio has agreed to give us time twice a month on the air to answer your questions concerning the following areas:

- H - Health Advisory Subjects
- E - Education and Health Issues
- A - Advocate/Resource Person
- L - Liaison to Faith and Community Resources
- T - Teacher of Volunteers & Developer of Support Groups
- H - Subjects on Healing of Body, Mind, Spirit and Community

We need the first questions by the end of January. You may call the parish nurse line at 251-4831 Ext. 210, with your questions. We do not need your name, and the answer to your question may help another person who is listening. Date and time that we will be on the air will be announced in the bulletin.

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

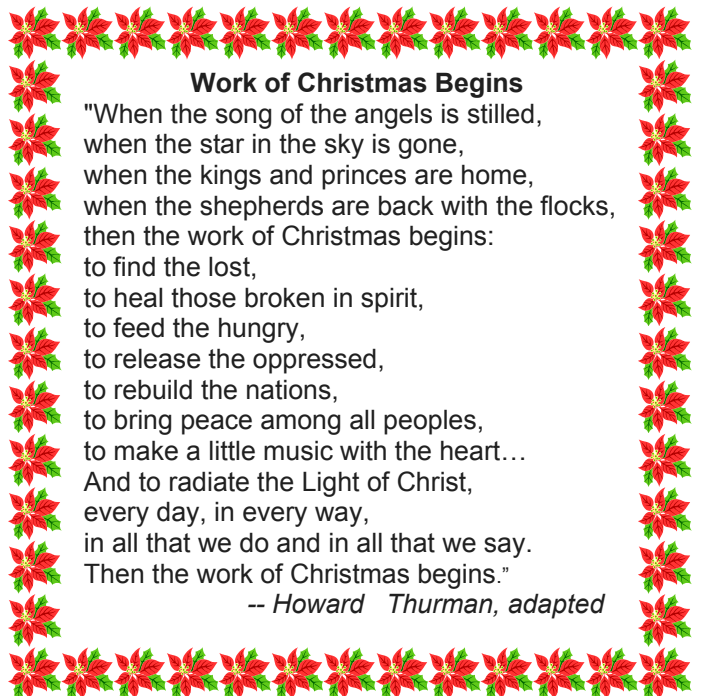
Merry Christmas! Today our parishes have a gift for every family attending Christmas Masses. The gift is a book titled **REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM**, written by Matthew Kelly. Millions of Catholics have enjoyed reading his book. It is very easy to read and understand. He has some great stories and examples. We believe that this book has great possibilities for us as individuals, families as well as for our parishes. Please take a few minutes to read the preface and we trust you will want to continue! Sixteen of our parishioners were so enthused about it, they volunteered to cover the entire cost of all these books, so that they would not have to come out of our parish budgets. We are inviting every family here today, **INCLUDING ALL VISITING FAMILIES**, to please take home a **FREE** copy of this wonderful book.

In the coming weeks you will be invited to gatherings led by Fr Alan, Deacon Dave and GERALYN as well as others to discuss this book and several others as well.

Faith Formation Newsletter—watch for our January newsletter the first weekend in January. Classes resume on January 4th.

SPPM News

All Saints Academy is holding an **Open House for prospective kindergarten families** at the St. Cloud Campus (formerly Sts. Peter, Paul & Michael School) for the 2012-2013 school year on January 11th. More information will follow for these families. Anyone else considering All Saints Academy for their child next fall should contact the school to arrange a visit or receive additional information regarding our PreK-6 school. We feel very confident that what we offer is an excellent Catholic education in a setting that is both challenging and nurturing. Please contact Sharon Bichler (St. Cloud) at 251-4737 for more information.



Work of Christmas Begins

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way,
in all that we do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins."

— Howard Thurman, adapted

Stewardship & Social Justice

Stewardship Message — “She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” - Luke 2:7

Where is Jesus in your life? Have you made room for Him or is He still in the manger wrapped in rags? If we are living our lives like all the rest of the modern and commercial world, we may be leaving Jesus out. It might be time to pick up this Infant Child and make Him a priority in our lives.

Choose Life—“In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies, we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ.” Pope John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life. That Americans may grow in appreciation for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, we pray.*



BABY SHOWER for our Spiritually Adopted babies, Sunday, January 1, 2012 Feast of the Holy Family, at SPE parish hall. Newborn size diapers and onesies needed most. Please bring a gift or donation which will be taken to Birthline and stop for a cup of coffee and a sweet. See you there. Jan Hoelscher

SAVE the DATE: St. Peter's will be hosting the homeless March 12-18 rather than January this year. Volunteers are needed for this opportunity to serve.

St. Paul’s Second Collection for January 7/8 will be divided between **Birthline, New Beginnings, and Project Rachel.**

Birthline and **New Beginnings** offer help for women to choose life, through counseling and other significant material ways. New Beginnings also provides a nurturing residence for women who have a need for such a home. Both groups make referrals for other types of assistance. For information about Birthline, call 252-4150, or e-mail: info@birthline.org. For information about New Beginnings, call 255-1252, or e-mail: info@newbeginnings.org.

Project Rachel reaches out with compassion and mercy to those who are hurting emotionally and spiritually after involvement with abortion. For more information, call 529-0427.

Saturday Meal: **Team 5** will prepare serve and share the noon meal on Saturday, December 31, in the St. Paul’s Dining Room and **Team 4** on Saturday, January 7. To volunteer on December 31 call Shannon Shaughnessy at 253-7182 or Saturday, January 7 call Mary O’Hara at 251-0052.

St. Peter’s Prayer Line is looking for some prayerful, dedicated people "to stand in the gap" for those in need of prayer. (Ezekiel 22:30) If you have a passion for prayer, God may be calling you to this wonderful ministry. If interested, please call Dcn Bill or Linda Ritchie at 252-0211.

Parish Nurses

Our Christmas Gift to the World

Holiness isn’t about doing great things, but rather doing ordinary things with great love.

- We can be holy families in our ordinary daily lives.
- Every home is a little church.
- Mothers demonstrate holiness preparing meals, doing laundry, soothing hurt feelings and loving their husbands.
- Fathers live out a holy calling by supporting their families, fixing broken pipes and broken toys, volunteering as coaches and loving their wives.
- Children imitate Jesus by obeying their elders and doing household chores cheerfully.

God needs holy families to bring His love to this hurting world. Jesus, Mary and Joseph help us to create a world of holy families.

Christmas Blessings to all of you from all of us. Your Parish Nurses

Electronic Contribution may be one way to keep your giving consistent. When you are away for a weekend your gift will be there. We want to thank all the families who already participate in electronic contribution, it truly helps us meet our monthly obligations. If you are interested, please clip and fill out the form below and return to the Parish Office.

**St. Peter’s or St. Paul’s
Electronic Contribution**

Envelope Number # _____ Effective Date _____

Contribution Amount \$ _____ Monthly

St. Paul’s Contribution to be taken out on the
1st or 15th of the month (**CIRCLE ONE**)

St. Peter’s Contribution is taken out on the
10th of each month.

Name on account _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Please accept my ongoing contribution from my:
(Please check one)

_____ Checking Account-**Attach a voided check**

_____ Savings Account-**Attach a savings deposit slip**

I authorize the **Church of St. Paul Church of St. Peter (circle one)** to process debit entries to my account. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip. This authority will remain in effect until I give reasonable notification to terminate this authorization.

Authorized signature on my account _____ Date _____

ATTACH VOIDED CHECK OR SAVINGS DEPOSIT SLIP

Parish News and Events

St. Paul's & St. Peter's Baptism Prep Session is offered by both parishes together, for parents preparing for the Baptism of their first child. Our next class will be on **December 27, 6:30 PM** at St. Peter's in the church. Please call 251-4831 Ext 201 to register. When scheduling a date for Baptism for either St. Peter or St. Paul, please call 251-4831 Ext 201.

Drivers Needed: If you have extra time, we have several parishioners from both parishes who are in need of transportation to Mass on Sunday. If interested, please call Judi Rassier, Parish Nurse at 251-4831 Ext. 210 (please leave a message).

Jeff Cavins Bible Study on the Book of James begins January 10 from 1 to 3 PM every Tuesday at St. Paul's in the Community Room. If you have any questions, please call Steve or Trese Mareck at 743-4188.

Knights of Columbus Council 5548 is having a membership drive. They will be making calls to visit with you about the Knights and see if you have an interest in joining the council or if the ladies would be interested in joining the auxiliary. The auxiliary is open all ladies of the parish even if their husbands are not a Knight. If you are interested, please call Gene Markman at 253-3635.

Prayer Corner

Please Pray For... Alma Rau, Victor Rothstein, Mildred Schmidt and all who have received a prayer blanket, that they may receive healing of body, mind and spirit.

Family Members in the Armed Forces—All Powerful God, you always show mercy toward those who love you and are never far from those who see you. Be with our men and women as they serve our nation in war. Shelter them with your protection by day, give them the light of your grace by night and bring them home in safety. We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen. If you have a family member in the armed service, your parish family would like to know. Please call the Parish Offices of St. Paul's (251-4831) or St. Peter's (252-2113).

HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME VISITATION

When you or a loved one is hospitalized, your name may or may not be listed in the hospital records for visitation. Due to Data Privacy, the hospital will not notify the parish if you transfer to a nursing home or other care facility. Nursing homes and care facilities also do not notify the parish. To assure that a priest or member of our parish staff can visit you during your stay, please notify the parish office at your earliest convenience.

DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA!!!! This spring semester a group of St. Ben's and St. John's students will be going abroad to Port Elizabeth, South Africa. While there we will be volunteering at an orphanage (House of Resurrection) and an elementary school (Pendla school). Any donations will go towards the CHILDREN at these two sites to help them any and every way possible, such as buying school supplies and building maintenance. Help us help them! Any donation helps and checks to be written out to the College of Saint Benedict. Collection envelopes to be marked as South Africa Donations, and can be put in the collection throughout the Christmas season. Have a very Merry Christmas!!!

PARISH SERVICES FOR ST. PETER'S AND ST. PAUL'S

Weekday Liturgies

St. Peter—Monday & Saturday—Word/Communion Service
Tuesday & Thursday—Liturgy 8:15 AM
St. Paul—Wednesday & Friday—Liturgy 8:15 AM

Weekend Liturgies—Effective November 1 through April 30

St. Peter—Sunday 7:30 and 10:30 AM
St. Paul—Saturday 4:30 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St. Peter—By Appointment
St. Paul—Saturday 3:30 PM or By Appointment

Baptism — Required sessions to prepare parents for baptism. All sessions begin at 6:30 PM. Call the Parish Office to register for a session or for scheduling a Baptism date. Prefer preparation before child is born.

Marriage

Please call Parish Office to have the guidelines sent to you. You will need at least six months to complete the necessary marriage and wedding preparation. You will then meet with a priest or deacon, liturgy director and a sponsor couple.

New Parishioners

Being registered is part of Parish Life. Call the Parish Office for more information.

Hospital Visits

If you are a patient in the hospital desiring a visit from Fr. Alan, one of the deacons or parish nurses, please call either Parish Office.

Prayer Line

St. Peter—Kim Walz 251-2252
St. Paul—Cathy Zulkosky 255-9957
Email: czulkosky@charter.net

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Thinking about joining the Catholic Church, or learning more about it? Through the RCIA process, our parish communities welcome your interest and questions about the Christian Faith as it is lived and celebrated in the Roman Catholic Tradition. For more information contact:

Deacon David Lindmeier...251-4831Ext 205
Rick Koetter...249-0102